

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Are Americans going to witness the total decimation of integrity within our public information systems? Are the days where we can trust what we hear and see on our public broadcasting networks gone? Is it that we are in a time in history where subversive manipulation and smear campaigns are what we should just accept from big business information sources? The FCC has a job to do and it is to protect the right of the American public when could be potentially manipulated by be misinformation and slanderous tactics. What good are the regulatory institutions put into place to protect the people of America from manipulative and slanderous tactics if they drop the ball when the time has come to act?

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.